(b) The decision of the newly elected Government in Maharashtra in August, 1995 to repudiate the agreement regarding the Dabhol power project of M/s. Enron and stoppage of construction work had raised concerns amongst foreign investors. However, the subsequent decision of the Government of Maharashtra to renegotiate the project with M/s. Enron, thus reconfirming their commitment to set up private power plants has helped in arresting the initial fears, for the time being. No serious impact has been perceived in the progress of the other private sector power projects or in the international market as a result of these developments in the case of the Dabhol project.

Harassment of Foreign Diplomats by Customs Officials at IGIA

*228. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state.

(a) whether foreign diplomats have complained against the harassment by customs officials at the Indira Gandhi International Airport;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. This Ministry has received a letter from the Chief of Protocol, Ministry of External Affairs that some foreign missions had reported non-cooperative behaviour by customs officials posted at Indira Gandhi International Airport. The main complaint was that the diplomats who were holding photo identity cards issued by the Airport Security were not allowed to enter the customs area meant for arrival of passengers.

(c) The Central Borad of Excise & Customs got the matter verified and restored the said facilities.

विद्युत क्षेत्र के निजीकरण के बारे में विश्व बैंक का दृष्टिकोण

*229. श्री अजीत जोगी: क्या विद्युत मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार का ध्यान 17 जून, 1995 के "बिजनैस स्टैण्डर्ड" में "वर्ल्ड बैंक ब्लास्ट्स पालिसी लैप्सिस इन पावर प्रोजेक्ट्स प्राईवेटाइजेशन" शीर्षक से प्रकाशित समाचार की ओर दिलाया गया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ग) सरकार की उस पर क्या प्रतिक्रिया है?

विद्युत मंत्री (श्री एन. के. पी. साल्वे): (क) जी, हां।

(ख) विश्व बैंक ने मुख्यत: हमारी निजी विद्युत नीति के उन क्षेत्रों के संबंध में टिप्पणी की है, जिनके विस्तार और प्रतिस्पर्द्धात्मक बोली, क्षेत्रीय सुधार विद्युत की लागत के संबंध में रोक आदि पर ध्यान देना अपेक्षित है।

(ग) सरकार ने विश्व बैंक द्वारा उठाए गए मुद्दों की जांच की है और इन मुद्दों का समाधान करने हेतु समय-समय पर उचित कदम उठाए हैं।

Amendment to RBI Act and Constitution

*230. SHRI JAGMOHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to amend the Reserve Bank of India Act to impose statutory limits on the Bank's net credit to the Central Government in a year;

(b) whether Government also propose to amend the Constitution to place constitutional limits on the Government's power to borrow from the market so that the future generations may not have to pay a heavy price for the profligacy of the present generation; and

(c) if the aforesaid amendments to RBI Act and the Constitution of India are not contemplated what other measures Government have in hand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Government is conscious of the growing debt burden. As a result of the fiscal consolidation programme initiated in 1991-92 the percentage of fiscal deficit to GIP was brought down to 5.9% to GIP in 1991-92 and 5.7% in 1992-93 as compared to an average of about 8% during the period 1985-86 to

1990-91. The fiscal deficit was 7.7% to GIP in 1993-94 mainly due to slower pace of industrial recovery which led to short fall in revenue receipt and various expenditures had also exceeded the budget estimates. In 1994-95 (RE) fiscal deficit was 6.2% of GIP against the budget target of 6% if the additional small savings loans passed on to the States due to larger collections are excluded. Government would endeavour to restrict the fiscal deficit in the current year to 5.5% of GIP by maximising revenues as and containing expenditure.

पूंजी बाजार से धन जुटाया जाना

*231. **श्री अनन्तराय देवशंकर दवे:** क्या नागर विमानन और पर्यटन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या पर्यटन विभाग ने चालू वर्ष के दौरान पूंजी बाजार से धन जुटाने का प्रयास किया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ग) क्या इस प्रयोजनार्थ निर्धारित लक्ष्य प्राप्त कर लिये जाने की संभावना है;

(घ) यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं; और

(ङ) पूंजी बाजार से धन किन प्रयोजनों हेतु जुटाया जा रहा है?

नागर विमानन और पर्यटन मंत्री (श्री गुलाम नबी आज़ाद): (क) जी, नहीं।

(ख) से (ङ) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

Efforts to Expand Network of T.V. Stations

*232. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) what percentage of total area of the country is now covered by Doordarshan (by its high and low power transmitters put together); and

(b) the efforts being made to expand the network of T.V. stations over the rest of the country, particularly the hilly and inaccessible areas?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) An estimated 68.4% area of the country is presently covered by Doordarshan network.

(b) With a view to further augment terrestrial service in hitherto uncovered areas, including hilly and inaccessible areas, 55 TV. transmitters of varying powers are presently under implementation/envisaged to be set up in the country, by the end of Eighth Plan, depending on availability of resources and other infrastructural facilities required for the purpose. On commissioning of these projects, terrestrial TV service is expected to be available to an estimated 83.2% area of the country.

Satellite based network system for Airports

*233. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration to set up a satellite- based national network system of airports in India;

(b) whether it is being implemented on a built-operate-transfer basis;

(c) whether there is any overseas investors or Indian corporate houses willing to fund this scheme and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) by when Government expect this system to be fully operational?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) First phase of this network system, involving transfer of all landbased direct speech circuit/teleprinter circuits to satellite linked network, is expected to be operational by December, 1997.

Proposal for writing-off loans worth Rs. 2100 crores

*234. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Orissa has